Please Join Us

As the culmination of their academic majors, Pacific Lutheran University seniors present to an open audience the fruits of a substantial project, paper, or internship.

The students and faculty of the Division of Humanities warmly invite all students, faculty, and the public to participate.
English

WORD + PICTURE → IMAGE

Our Capstone Seminar examines the construction of an image and all that complex term implies. A literary image may arise from juxtaposed words and phrases in poetry or prose. An image may combine written sentences and actual pictures. Sequential word-and-picture images can tell a complex story, as in a graphic narrative. And images may rely on sensory information beyond the visual. Our Capstone Seminar research suggests how images—rooted in the imagination and imaginary—inform our memories, our histories, and the stories we tell.

SEMINAR IN WRITING

Argument shapes human life. This is as true in situations characterized by deeply shared mutual interests as it is when argument emerges between fierce adversaries. Argument helps friends discover the best course of action, allows enemies to postpone or prevent violent conflict, and provides a primary means by which scholars discover and communicate the truths that bear upon an issue. The members of this Capstone selected an issue of private and public significance, wrote a personal narrative demonstrating their connection to the issue, conducted at least two interviews with people affected by and knowledgeable of the issue, composed a forty-item annotated bibliography, and wrote a detailed analysis of the arguments employed in those sources. These different projects became the raw material from which they are writing their final project, a twenty to twenty-five page piece of nonfiction prose. By combining the personal with the public and narrative with analysis, these projects bring attention to an important issue in a way that engages readers and contributes to a useful argument in an informed way.

Professor Nathalie of de Beeck (Literature)
Professor Matthew Levy (Writing)
English

Seminar in Literature

Thursday, December 6, 2012
Anderson University Center, Room 133

5:15 P.M.  BLAIR BJORKMAN
"HISTORY THROUGH A GLASS SLIPPER: COLLECTIVE MEMORY, NATIONAL IDENTITY, AND CINDERELLA"

6:00 P.M.  ARIEL ROBERTS
"SILENCED VOICES, SILENT TEXTS: SEXUAL TRAUMA IN THE EPISTOLARY NOVEL"

6:45 P.M.  ABBEY SIMMONS
"LOST CULTURE, FOUND IDENTITY: COLLECTIVE MEMORY IN THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE"

7:30 P.M.  NINA HArTSEL
"SEARCHING FOR SOUVENIERS: MULTIMODAL EXPLORATIONS OF MEMORY, HISTORY, AND THE CREATION OF AUTHENTICITY"

8:15 P.M.  STEPHANIE NOYES
"A WRINKLE IN TEXT: THE LEAP THROUGH A LITERARY TESSERACT"
English

Seminar in Writing
Thursday, December 6, 2012
Anderson University Center, Room 201

5:15 P.M.  CHRISTINE YOUNG
"Welfare, Independence, and the Value of Work"

6:00 P.M.  NIGEL HEMMINGS
"Rights, Wrongs, and Reasons: Should the U.S. Ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child?"

6:45 P.M.  LESLEY GARDNER
"To Read or Not to Read: The Value of Literature in Education"

7:30 P.M.  KELSEY JOHNSTON
"Why Can't You Get Over It?: When Grief is Stigmatized"

8:15 P.M.  AUSTIN SCHORNO
"Competing Approaches to African Orphan Care"

9:00 P.M.  LINDSY M. PRATT
"Will You Civil Union Me?"
English

Seminar in Writing

Friday, December 7, 2012
Anderson University Center, Room 204

11:15 A.M.  MARINA PITASSI  
"Dropping the N-Bomb?"

12:00 P.M.  PAULA MCFADDEN  
"Educational Freedom: A Right or Wr

12:45 P.M.  ADRIENNE LANGKOW  
"Food Fights: Issues of Nutrition in School Meal Programs"

1:30 P.M.  D.J. ANDERSON-VINT  
"I Pitt the Fool Without Empathy: Arguments About Selfishness and Teamwork"

2:15 P.M.  DIANNE MCGINNESS  
"From Copenhagen to Seattle: A Journey on Foot"

3:00 P.M.  JOSHUA COOK  
"Labor Abuse in the Middle East: Arguments Regarding Responsibility"
Languages & Literatures

In this seminar students explore a variety of literary and critical theories, including Structuralism, Deconstructionism, Psychoanalysis, Marxism, Feminism, New Historicism, Reader Response Criticism, Lesbian, Gay and Queer criticism, African American criticism and Postcolonialism. For their capstone projects, students analyze a primary text from their major disciplines, informed by one or more of these schools of thought. Their projects demonstrate that theory can be quite practical in its ability to illuminate texts of many varieties: literary, cinematic, architectural, historical, and the discourses to which they contribute.

The students' primary texts and much of their secondary material are in their respective target languages, and their presentations provide an opportunity for them to demonstrate their facility both in critical theory and in these languages. This semester the seminar participants represent three disciplines: Chinese Studies, French, and German.

Professor Kirsten Christensen
LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

Seminar in Critical Theory

Monday, December 10, 2012
Anderson University Center, Room 133

4:00 P.M. CHRISTOPHER C. BORTEL
Chinese Studies
"Inescapable Fain: The Contemporary Art of Zhang Huan"

4:25 P.M. TORHILD SKILLINGSTAD
Chinese Studies
"Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall: Revere Place of Memory or Reminder of an Oppressive Past?"

4:45 P.M. OVE G. SYVERSTAD
Chinese Studies
"Seeing the Overlooked: A Disability Studies Approach to the Movie Ocean Heaven (2010)"

5:05 P.M. RENÉE BEDARD
French
"Postponing Equality: The Exposure of Postcolonial Perceptions in Claude Levi-Strauss's Triste Tropiques (1955)"

5:25 P.M. EMILY KNIZEK
German
"'The Moment has Come': Historicizing Hitler's Declaration of War Against the Soviets in His Speech to the German People, June 22, 1941"
HISP 499 is the culminating course for the Hispanic Studies major. In this course, students develop and write a substantial, original, research project, in accordance with their own interests in the Spanish speaking world, and in dialogue with some of the critics who have shaped how literature, film, and culture are studied in universities today.

Professor Bridget Yaden
Languages & Literatures

Seminar in Hispanic Studies

Friday, December 7, 2012

Mortvedt Library, Room 332

3:00 P.M.  BRITTANY HAKE
"Hybridity Effects on Identity: Representations of Mexican-Americans in Literature and Film?"
In this seminar, we explored some of the major philosophical works in the political traditions of liberalism and communitarianism. Liberalism, as a political philosophy, stresses the values of freedom and equality and advocates for political institutions that protect these values by establishing frameworks of certain basic rights and liberties. It has its modern origins in the seventeenth century, particularly in the thought of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke, and has since been reiterated in diverse forms by thinkers from Adam Smith, Immanuel Kant, and John Stuart Mill to John Rawls, Robert Nozick, and Richard Rorty. It has also been subjected to diverse critiques, which have attempted to outline the limits of and alternatives to these values and these political institutions. Communitarianism, as a political philosophy, represents one of the most important of these critiques and has in recent decades been developed by such thinkers as Charles Taylor, Alasdair MacIntyre, Michael Sandel, and Michael Walzer. This semester, we delved into both philosophical traditions in order to assess their relative strengths and weaknesses.

Professor Michael Schleeter
Philosophy

Seminar in Political Traditions

Wednesday, December 12, 2012
Anderson University Center, Room 201

1:00 P.M. YUMI KOBAYASHI
"Preventing Tyranny: A 'Natural' Tendency for Greater Power and Wealth"

1:45 P.M. RACHEL YOURLICH
"A Rortyan Approach to Same-Sex Marriage"
Notes
Humanities Capstones Fall 2012

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF HUMANITIES
Tacoma, WA 98447
www.plu.edu/humanities

The Division of Humanities at Pacific Lutheran University is composed of the Departments of
English (including Children’s Literature and Culture, and Publishing and Printing Arts),
Languages and Literatures (including Chinese, Classics, French, German, Hispanic Studies, and Norwegian),
Philosophy, and Religion,
and is also affiliated with these programs:
Chinese Studies, Environmental Studies, Global Studies, International Honors, Scandinavian Area Studies, and Women’s and Gender Studies.